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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9831
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RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
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RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 1700
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 5487
RUEHB/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 7074
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2673
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 3089
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 3140
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

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SIPDIS

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EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
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SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - GAZA ATTACKS

¶1. LEAD STORIES: Lead stories on Tuesday morning included a Sankei report indicating that the Democratic Party of Japan, Japan's main opposition party, plans to make a new proposal for MCAS Futenma relocation by reviewing the current plan to relocate the airfield's functions to Camp Schwab.

¶2. "Immediate Ceasefire in Gaza Called for" The business-oriented Nikkei's editorial stated (1/6): "... In order to prevent further bloodshed, both Israel and Hamas should immediately stop their attacks... A slowdown in the Middle East peace talks would have adverse effects on the war on terrorism. We strongly hope to achieve early diplomatic development through mediation by such nations as France, Egypt, and Turkey. The U.S. needs to urge Israel to exercise self restraint and to immediately create an international consensus to call for a ceasefire."

¶3. "Hope for International Mediation" The conservative Sankei editorialized (1/6): "... The situation in Gaza continues to deteriorate. Dropped oil prices have begun to rebound. Immediate mediation by the international community is called for... The UN Security Council has failed to reach an agreement, as the U.S. takes a pro-Israel position. The Arab League has been slow to move due to sectarian antagonism. We have hope for the role of the Quartet, including the EU, and Egypt, which have worked on Middle East peace for years."

¶4. "We Need to Urge Withdrawal of Ground Troops" The liberal Tokyo Shimbun opined in an editorial (1/6): "Israel began ground attacks on Gaza. Hamas has declared its determined resistance, and the number of casualties has been growing. The international community should urge a withdrawal of the ground troops."

SCHIEFFER